

U-2 ARTICLE INQUIRY SET

Muzzling Probe To Spotlight Publication Bar

BY HOWARD NORTON

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Feb. 13—Censorship over discussion of the U-2 spy plane affair will be spotlighted Thursday by the Senate investigation into the alleged "muzzling" of military officers.

The chief witness will be Rear Adm. W. C. Mott, Judge Advocate General of the Navy, who will be questioned about an article on the "legal implication of the U-2 and RB-47 incidents" and why it was barred from publication in the Judge Advocate General Journal.

The Thursday session thus will open a new phase of the muzzling inquiry—an inquiry into the extent and effects of censorship on military professional journals.

Decker Set As Witness

This will follow a final day of public hearings into the Pentagon's censoring of speeches of high officers of the military, tomorrow.

The sole witness on Wednesday will be the chief of staff of the Army, Gen. George H. Decker who, according to material in the hands of the investigators, suffered under the blue pencil on at least six occasions last year.

Paragraph Quoted

The records show that most of the deletions made in General Decker's speeches originated in the State Department and most of them consisted of elimination of direct accusations against the "Communists" in general. In each case the term "Sino Soviet bloc" was inserted instead of "Communists."

Admiral Mott also suffered some strange deletions from speeches made in his official capacity, according to committee members.

In censoring a speech which the Admiral delivered before the American Law Students Association in August, 1961, for example, the following entire paragraph was deleted:

"Believe me, gentlemen, speak-

ing as a teacher, which I have been. I know that teaching of communism in the public schools is not an easy task. There is no place for amateurs in the field. In fact, amateur anti-Communists are about as helpful as amateur brain surgeons. We don't need space age witch hunters. We need informed citizens who have done their homework."

No reason was given for the disapproval of this statement.

It is not known either whether it was deleted by the Pentagon or the State Department.

But the main thing the Senate Armed Services Committee's special "muzzling" subcommittee wants to talk to Mott about is the U-2 censorship.

Regular Lecturer

This case is complicated—and made more puzzling, according to committee investigators — by the fact that the article in question was not written by a military man but by a civilian professor

of international law at Columbia University, one Dr. Oliver J. Lissitzyn.

The story goes that Professor Lissitzyn prepared his paper on "Legal Implication of the U-2 and RB-47 Incidents" for delivery at the Naval War College at Newport, R.I., as part of a course on international law for naval officers.

The professor is a regular lecturer at the War College, and he delivered his lecture as scheduled.

But when he submitted it for publication in the Judge Advocate General Journal—a technical journal whose audience is almost entirely the legal officers of the military—the censor held it up for 60 days, the records show.

Finally, Professor Lissitzyn became impatient and withdrew the article and submitted it to an outside publication which military censorship does not reach.

Much Of Value Lost

Senator Thurmond (D., S.C.), who touched off the current inquiry, points out that in this case the article was published anyway and in a manner designed to give it wider circulation than it would have had in the Judge Advocate General Journal.

But much of its value to the military was lost, he adds, because many of the specialized list of subscribers to the military journal would not see it.

In a speech on the Senate floor, the South Carolina Senator warned that "professional journals must be kept free of heavy censorship so that ideas can be exchanged within the military fraternity."

"Without such cross-fertilization of ideas among military men and students of the military, military policy and proficiency could well become sterile."